SBI branch in Shim la, Himachal Pradesh

* 133. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider opening a branch of the State Bank of India at Jangla in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that they have no proposal at present to open a branch of their bank at Jangla, District Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. A branch of UCO bank is, however, functioning at Jangla.

Upgradation of Airports in Andhra Pradesh

* 134. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked and released for the upgradation of the airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred so far together with the details of the work carried out; and

(c) the funds contributed by the Centre and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose, separately, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The amount earmarked for various sanctioned projects in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 90.57 crores. The amount provided in the annual plan for 2001-2002 in respect of these projects is Rs. 9.24 crores.

(b) The expenditure incurred so far on these projects is Rs. 56.22 crores. At Hyderabad Airport, a new Terminal Building has been constructed and the existing Terminal Building modified, the runway has been improved with correction of Taxi-track profile, extension of

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@. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

apron and construction of isolation bay. At Vijaywada Airport the existing runway has been strengthened and new apron has been constructed. At Rajamundary Airport the runway has been strengthened and a new Taxi-track etc. has been constructed.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided Rs. 4 crores to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of Vijaywada Airport. Rest of the funds have been provided by AAI.

Permission to Thai Airways International

* 135. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to Thai Airways International to operate more additional flights to and from Mumbai;

(b) if so, what are the destinations Thai Airways is likely to operate on the new routes;

(c) whether Thailand has also agreed to give permission to Air India for operating additional international flights from Bangkok on reciprocal basis; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) During the last round of bilateral air services consultations between India and Thailand in February, 2000, Mumbai was granted as an additional point of call to the designated airline of Thailand without 5th freedom traffic rights subject to a Code Share/Block Space Agreement (CS-BSA) with Air India. The terms and conditions of the CSBSA were to be mutually agreed to between Air India and Thai Airways prior to Commencement of latter's operations to/from Mumbai. This has since been finalised and Thai Airways have started thrice weekly operations between Mumbai and Bangkok with effect from 28th October, 2001.